Additional air services for Kumbh Mela

†*329. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people from different places come over to participate in the most auspicious "Kumbh" fair of this century which is going to be observed in Allahabad district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government would provide any special air-service to facilitate to and fro movement of people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Airlines is planning to operate special flights between Delhi and Allahabad on the following dates as advised by the U.P. Government:

9th January, 2001
14th January, 2001
24th January, 2001
29th January, 2001
8th February, 2001
21st February, 2001

Production of Crude Oil

*330. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a shortfall in the targeted and actual production of crude oil in the country between April-June 2000;

(b) what was the actual, targeted and last year's production during the above period;

(c) the percentage of shortfall and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the shortfall in production of crude oil affects the economy of the country adversely, if so, the steps taken/planned to ensure that it doesn't occur in future?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The details are as given below:

Period		Crude oil production in the country (in million metric tonne)		
		Target	Actual (%)	Achievement
(i)	April-June 2000	8.00	7.98	99.7%
(ii)	April-June 1999	8.28	8.18	98.8%

The marginal shortfall in the actual production during the above periods was mainly due to the following reasons:

— Repair/revamping jobs at Western offshore.

— Restricted production from newly drilled wells due to infrastructure constraints.

— Production problems in North Eastern region.

— Suspension of production since August 1999 at Khagarijan, Assam.

(d) Due to steep increase in the oil prices in the international market by over three times between February, 1999 and September, 2000, the import bill during the current financial year is estimated to be over Rs. 80,000 crore as against the import bill of Rs. 53, 515 crore during the year 1999-2000.

However, Government has taken several steps to increase crude oil production in the country which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in accelerating oil production from the fields.

(ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.

(iii) To explore in the new areas specially in deep water and difficult forntier areas.

(iv) To develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.

(v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.

(vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(vii) To increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

ONGC has also taken steps by way of advancing their plans and inputs to produce additional 0.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil over and above the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) target of 24.6 MMT in current year i.e. 2000-2001.

Post Office Recurring Deposit cases of missing persons

*331 SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedures followed in dispose of the Recurring Deposit Scheme in Post Offices with regard to the families of missing persons;

(b) the number of cases pending with the postal department in Delhi for the settlement of Recurring Deposits to the affected families and the details thereof;

(c) by when these are likely to be settled; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The procedure for settlement of Recurring Deposit Scheme claims relating to missing persons is as under:

- An application has to be made by the claimant to the Postmaster concerned.
- Every claim is required to be supported by a probate of will, or letters of administration of certificate granted under the Indian Succession Act, 1925. In cases where the claimant does not produce any of the aforesaid legal evidence of heir-ship, the following documents need to be obtained and forwarded to the Head of the Circle for issue of sanction.